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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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COMMITTEE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON RULES OF
THE HOUSE

AQ 145A

December 21, 1981

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ACTION
is assigned to

APA

Honorable Alexander M. Haig, Jr.
Secretary of State
Department of State
2201 C Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20520

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part () In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As you know, the alarming international phenomenon of "disappearances" has been a matter of great concern to the Congress. Indeed, Section 701 of Public Law 96-533 expanded the statutory definition of "a consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights" to include specifically the category of "disappearances of persons by the abduction and clandestine detention of those persons."

Unfortunately, the country of Argentina has long been identified as one where thousands of disappearances have occurred. Last year, I received letters from the parents of three young men who disappeared in Argentina: Mauricio Fabian Weinstein, seized April 18, 1978; Jorge Victor Sznajder, seized May 12, 1979, and Martin Vazquez, seized July 18, 1978. I brought these cases to the attention of Secretary of State Muskie. A copy of the response I received from the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations is enclosed for your information.

I am aware that this Administration is concerned about the disappearances that have taken place in Argentina. In the course of the wide range of relations between the United States and Argentina, I would hope that the fate of the disappeared would be raised with the Argentine Government.

Just this month, a new Government has come to power in Argentina, headed by Gen. Leopoldo Fortunato Galtieri. I would respectfully urge you to take advantage of this new opportunity to seek information from President Galtieri about the status of those thousands of Argentine citizens who have disappeared.

I recently received the attached letter from Marcos Weinstein, the father of the disappeared young man Mauricio Fabian Weinstein. I would request that you bring the case of Mauricio Weinstein to the attention of the new Government of Argentina, and that you ask that Government to make the fullest possible effort to provide whatever information it can to Mr. Weinstein's family. They have been living in uncertainty for almost three and one-half years. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Tony P. Hall
Tony P. Hall
Member of Congress

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TPH:msr

131